



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Holiday Pet Pantry to Help Animals in Need**

November 23, 2009 – Waterford, VA – For the fifth year, Loudoun County Animal Care & Control is hosting a Pet Pantry in conjunction with the Community Holiday Coalition to provide donated pet food and supplies to families in need during the holiday season. The Pet Pantry will be located at the Community Holiday Coalition store in Sterling during its December distribution dates.

The economic downturn has created an even greater need to provide assistance to those experiencing financial hardships during this holiday season, and many of these families include pets. The Pet Pantry allows families who are picking up food, clothes, and toys at the Holiday Coalition Store to also receive food and treats for their pets. Nearly 2,000 pets have received items during the program's first four years.

The Pet Pantry is part of Loudoun County Animal Care & Control's award-winning CARE program, which works year-round to assist low income citizens with pet care needs such as medical assistance, low cost spay/neuter surgery, and pet food. Information will be made available about the CARE program for those that need additional assistance throughout the year.

The Pet Pantry is stocked solely through donations from citizens and businesses. Donations of unopened pet food, treats, and new or gently used toys will be accepted at the Loudoun County Animal Shelter, as well as at all Holiday Coalition collection sites, through December 12. Donations of food for cats and small animals is especially needed.

For more information on the Community Holiday Coalition and the Pet Pantry, visit [www.loudoun.gov/holidaycoalition](http://www.loudoun.gov/holidaycoalition). For more information on Animal Care & Control and the CARE program, visit [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals).

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is located at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Shelter information & directions can be found at [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals).

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